

# FABLES

VERTIGO

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JJEAN 160NC

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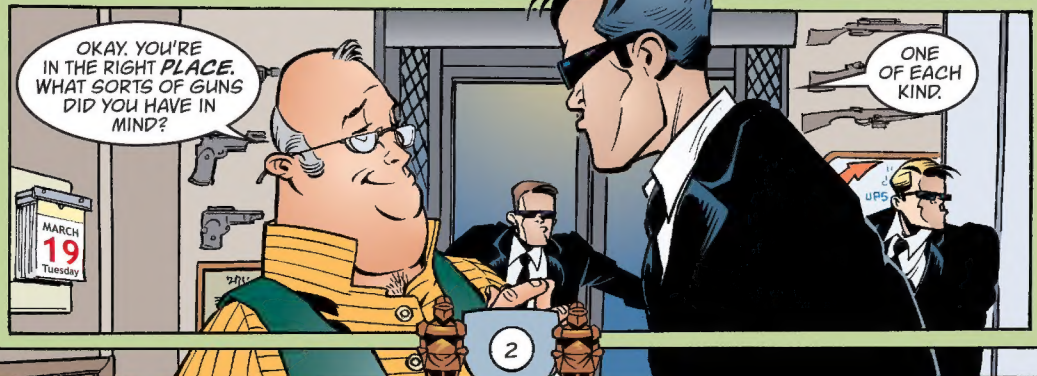
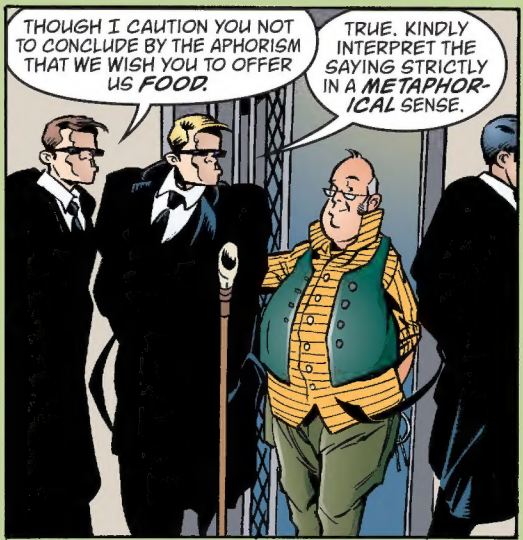
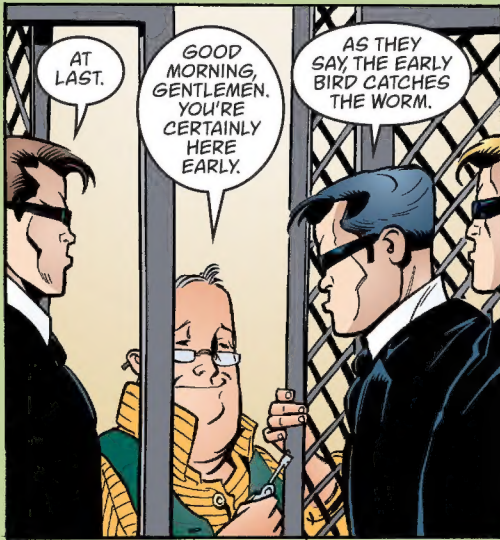
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JJEAN 160NC







THE WOODLAND,  
NEW YORK CITY.

AS YOU  
CAN SEE, ONE  
OF THEM HAD  
A WOODEN  
LEG.

I PICKED  
IT UP IN HOPES OF  
BEING ABLE TO *BEAT*  
THE BASTARDS TO  
DEATH WITH IT.

BUT  
THEY GOT  
AWAY.

SO  
WHAT'S  
YOUR *SCAM*,  
JACK?

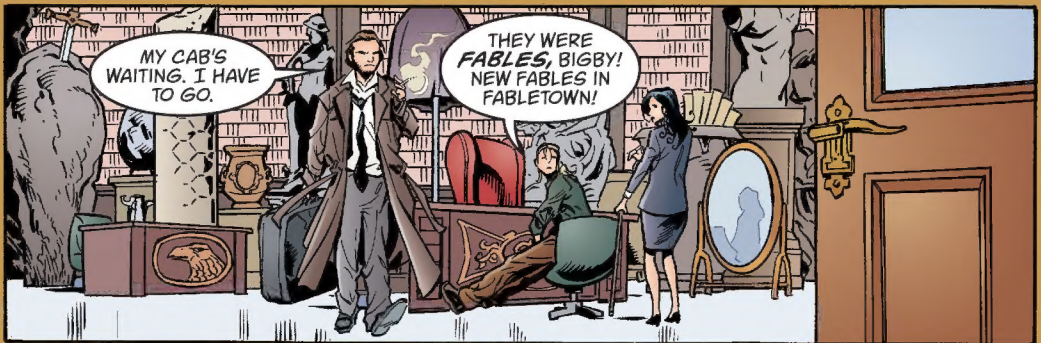
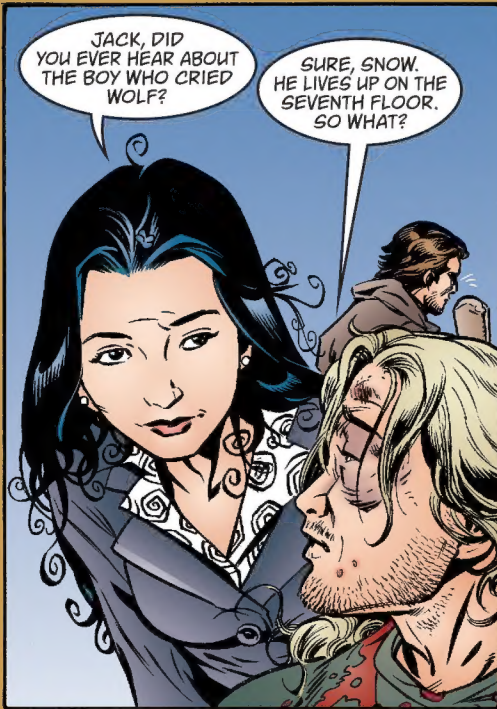
WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

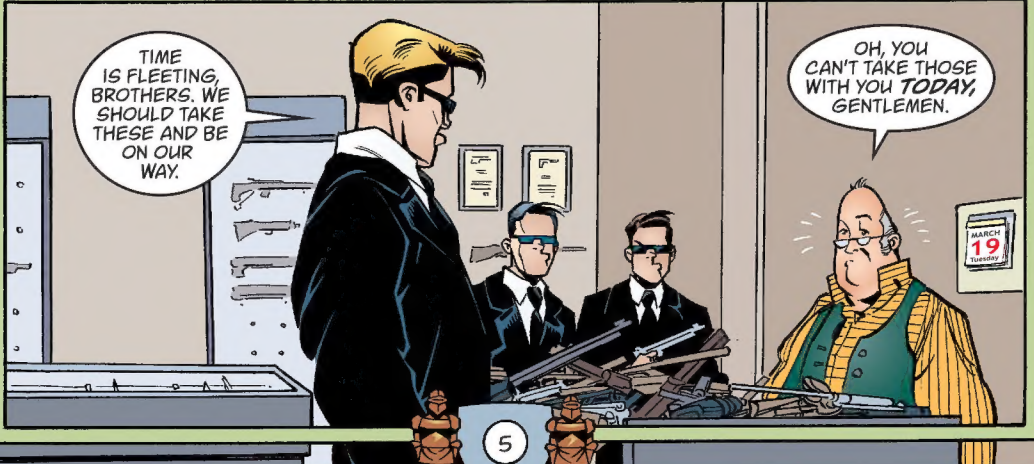
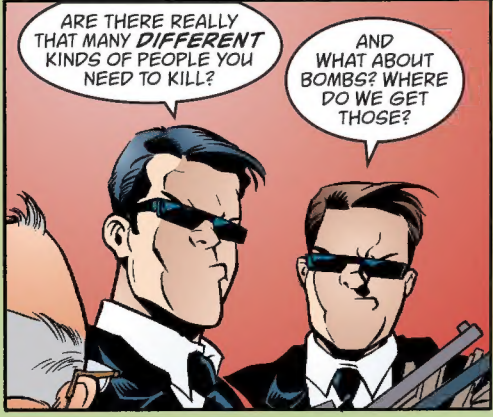
I DON'T  
BELIEVE YOU GOT  
MUGGED. YOU'RE *UP*  
TO SOMETHING AND I  
DON'T HAVE TIME  
FOR IT.

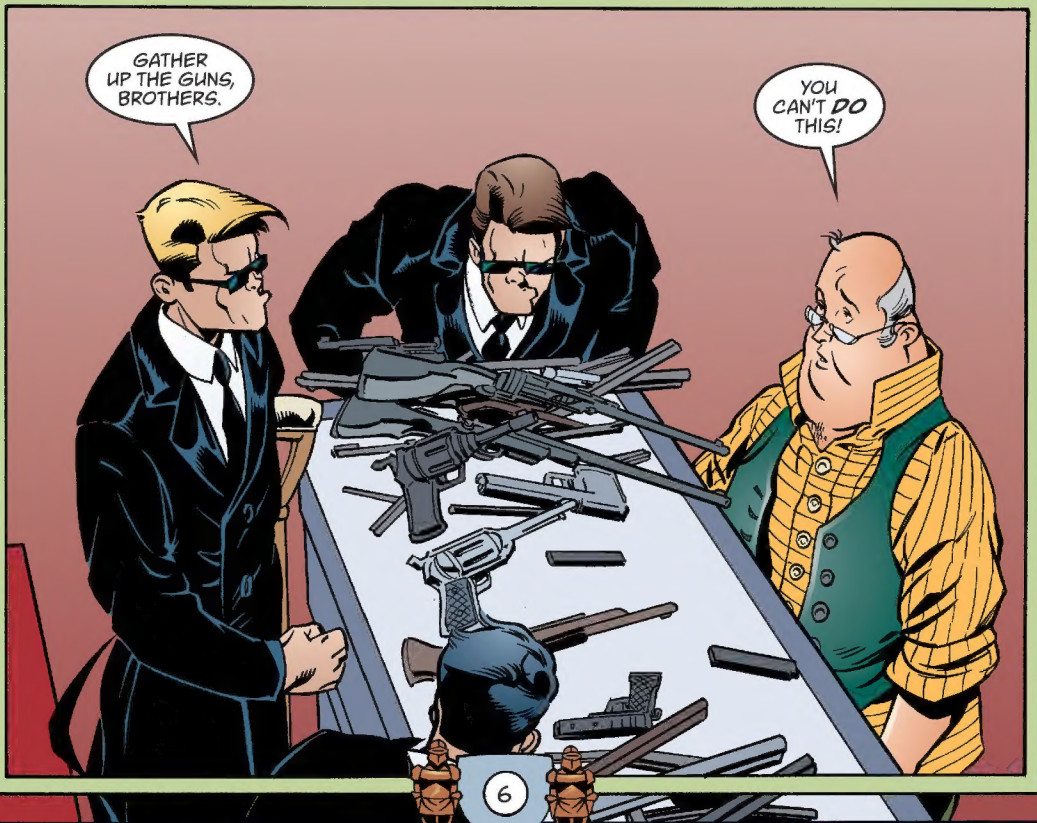
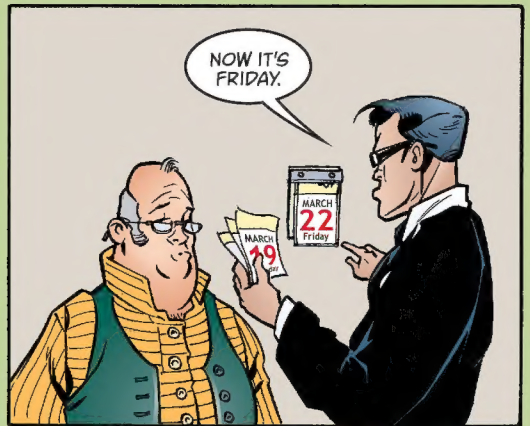
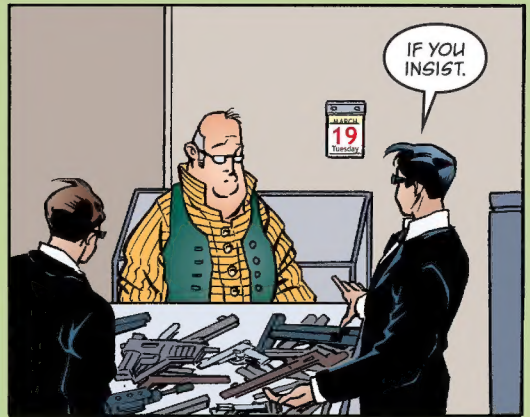
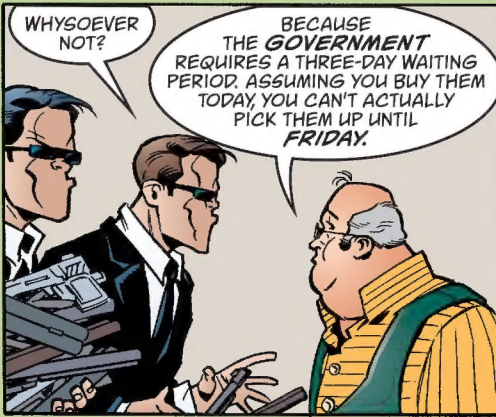
I'M  
NOT! *LOOK*  
AT ME!

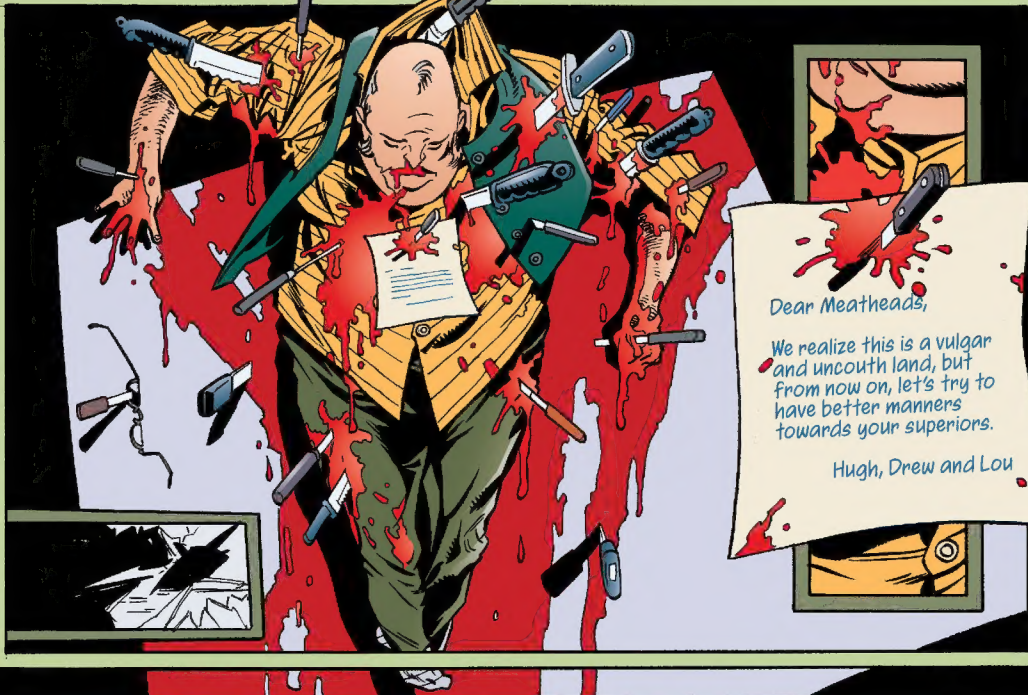
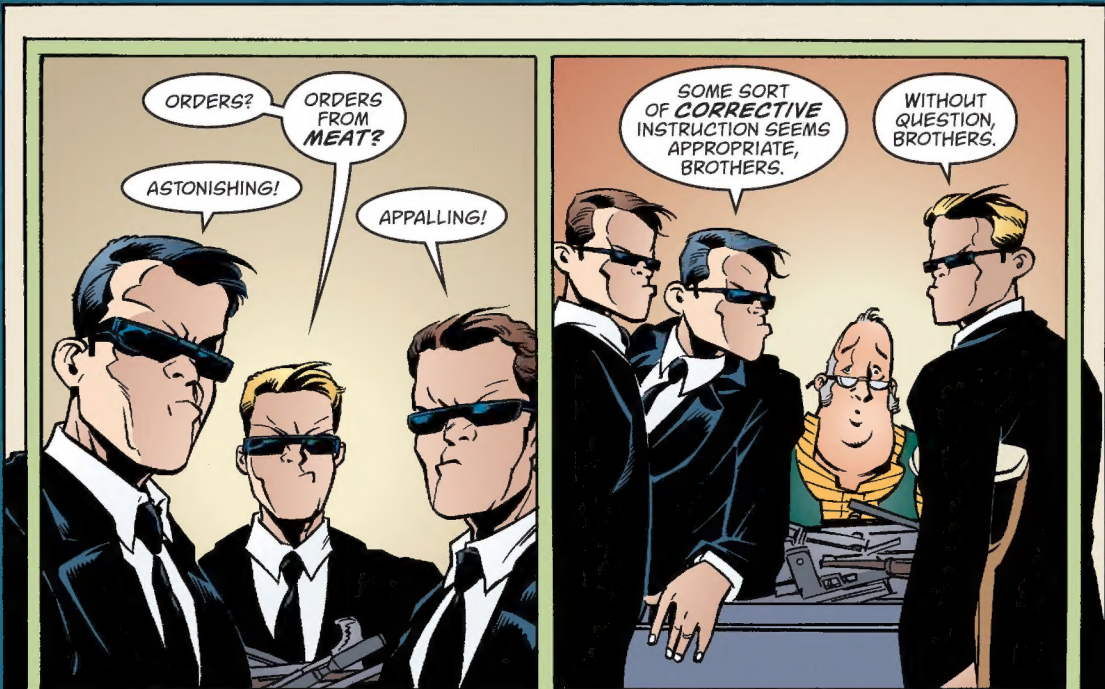
YOU'RE  
LYING NOW,  
BECAUSE YOU  
*ALWAYS*  
LIE.

NOT  
*THIS*  
TIME!













THAT NASTY LITTLE BOY BLUE IS PLAYING AGAIN!

WHY MUST HE ALWAYS PLAY SUCH SAD SONGS?

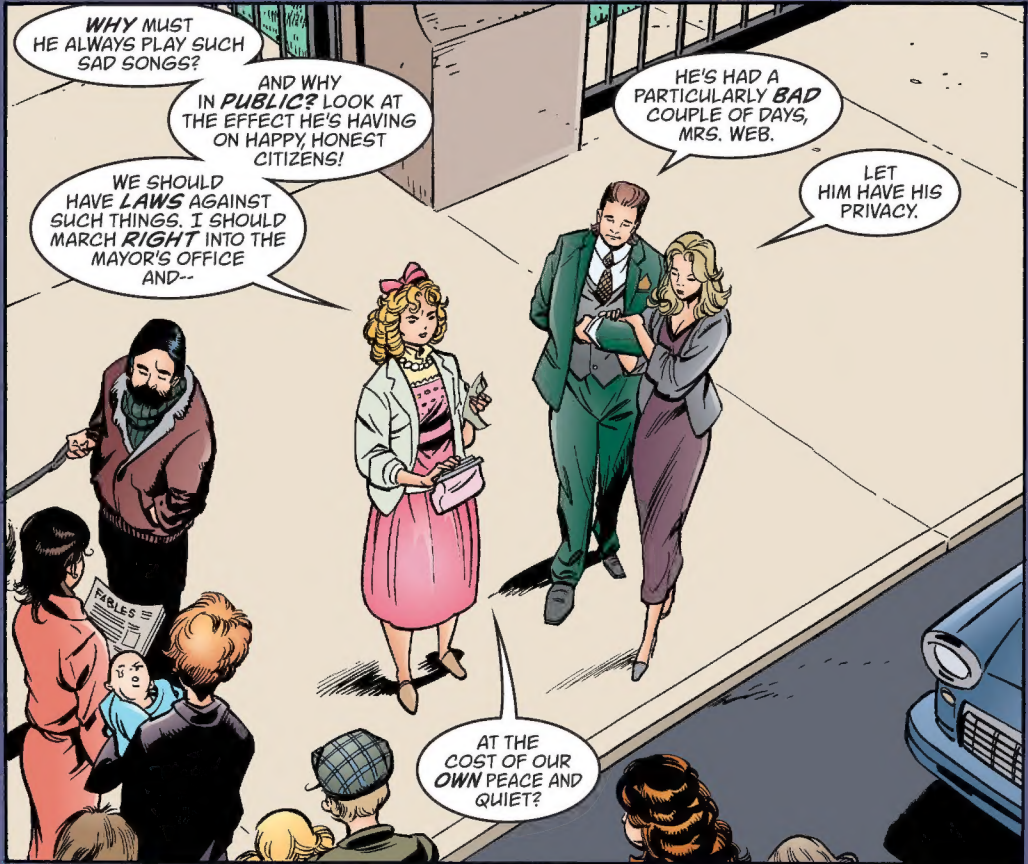
AND WHY IN PUBLIC? LOOK AT THE EFFECT HE'S HAVING ON HAPPY, HONEST CITIZENS!

HE'S HAD A PARTICULARLY BAD COUPLE OF DAYS, MRS. WEB.

LET HIM HAVE HIS PRIVACY.

WE SHOULD HAVE LAWS AGAINST SUCH THINGS. I SHOULD MARCH RIGHT INTO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND--

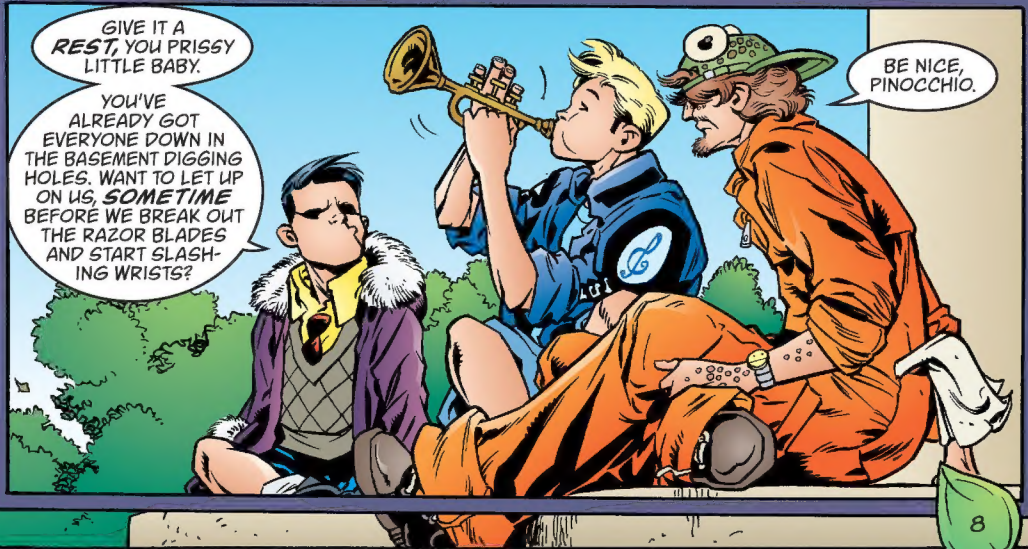
AT THE COST OF OUR OWN PEACE AND QUIET?

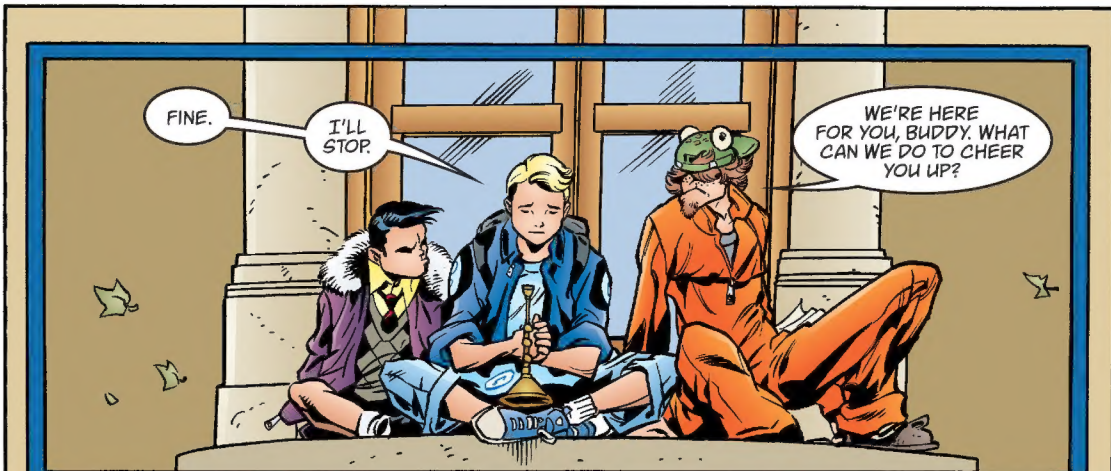


GIVE IT A REST, YOU PRISSEY LITTLE BABY.

YOU'VE ALREADY GOT EVERYONE DOWN IN THE BASEMENT DIGGING HOLES. WANT TO LET UP ON US, SOMETIME BEFORE WE BREAK OUT THE RAZOR BLADES AND START SLASHING WRISTS?

BE NICE, PINOCCHIO.





FINE.

I'LL STOP.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU, BUDDY. WHAT CAN WE DO TO CHEER YOU UP?



NOTHING.

WANT TO GO TO THE COMIC SHOP?

NO THANKS.

THE CANDY STORE? OUR TREAT.



THAT'S NOT HOW YOU GET OVER A BROKEN HEART, FLYCATCHER.

THERE'S ONLY ONE SUREFIRE CURE.

HOOKERS.

OUR TREAT.



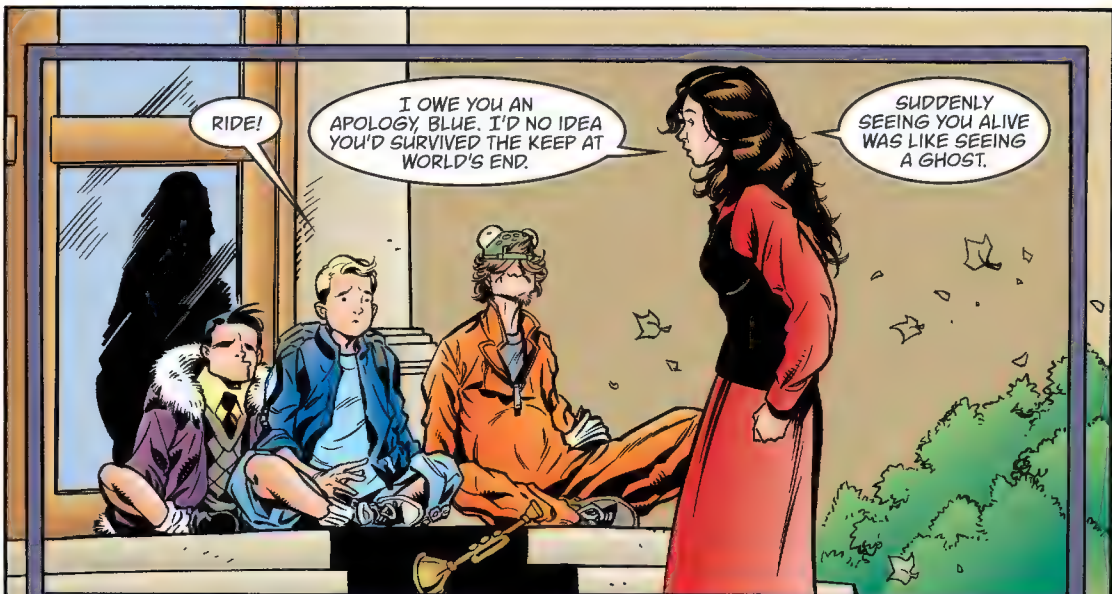
BUT HOW COULD SHE REJECT ME, WITHOUT EVEN GIVING ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN MYSELF?

WHO CAN TRULY KNOW THE MYSTERIES OF A WOMAN'S HEART?



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CHEERING HIM UP, FLY. KEEP TALKING LIKE THAT AND HE'LL START PLAYING HIS GODDAMN DIRGES AGAIN.

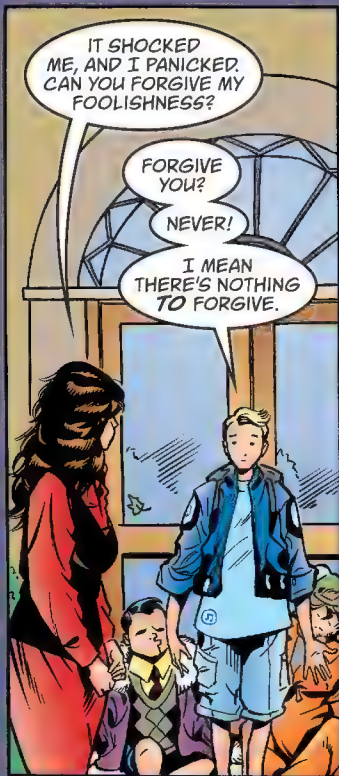
I THOUGHT HIS MUSIC WAS SWEET.



RIDE!

I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY, BLUE. I'D NO IDEA YOU'D SURVIVED THE KEEP AT WORLD'S END.

SUDDENLY SEEING YOU ALIVE WAS LIKE SEEING A GHOST.

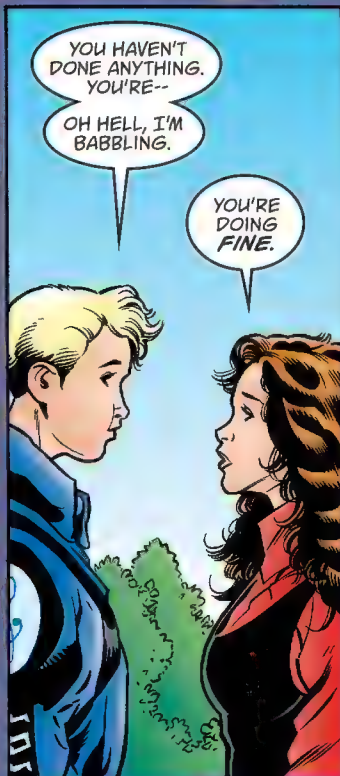


IT SHOCKED ME, AND I PANICKED. CAN YOU FORGIVE MY FOOLISHNESS?

FORGIVE YOU?

NEVER!

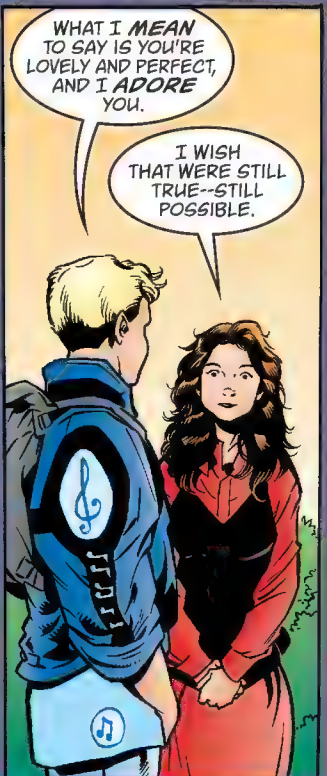
I MEAN THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE.



YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING. YOU'RE--

OH HELL, I'M BABBLING.

YOU'RE DOING FINE.



WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS YOU'RE LOVELY AND PERFECT, AND I **ADORE** YOU.

I WISH THAT WERE STILL TRUE--STILL POSSIBLE.



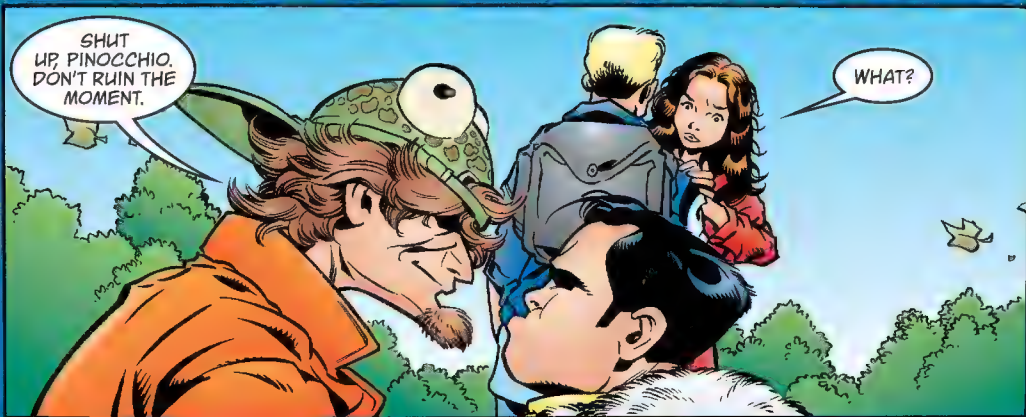
SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED. SO MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE WE--

I'M NOT THE SAME GIRL YOU LOVED SO LONG AGO.



IMPOSSIBLE. WE'RE AGELESS. OUR LOVE HAS TO BE, TOO.

SOMEONE KILL ME, PLEASE, BEFORE I DROWN IN THIS SACCHARINE CRAP.



SHUT UP, PINOCCHIO. DON'T RUIN THE MOMENT.

WHAT?



WHAT DID HE CALL YOU?

SORRY, I DIDN'T INTRODUCE MY FRIENDS.

THIS IS FLYCATCHER--MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE FROG PRINCE.



PLEASD TO MEET YOU, MA'AM.

AND THIS IS MY ROOMMATE, PINOCCHIO.

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU SWALLOWED A GOAT. DO I KNOW YOU, OR DO I HAVE A BOOGER SHOWING, OR WHAT?



NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT.

WE'VE NEVER MET, BUT I'VE HEARD OF YOU.

HOW? I CAME FROM A SMALL TOWN, IN A TINY KINGDOM, IN ONE OF THE POOREST AND MOST INSIGNIFICANT OF THE OLD WORLDS.

NEVERTHELESS, YOU'RE A LEGEND AMONG--

IF YOU KNOW ABOUT ME, DID YOU HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT MY DAD?

TO MY KNOWLEDGE, HE NEVER GOT OUT OF THE HOMELANDS.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY SEEING YOU--IN PERSON.

IF YOU TWO WANT TO BE ALONE--

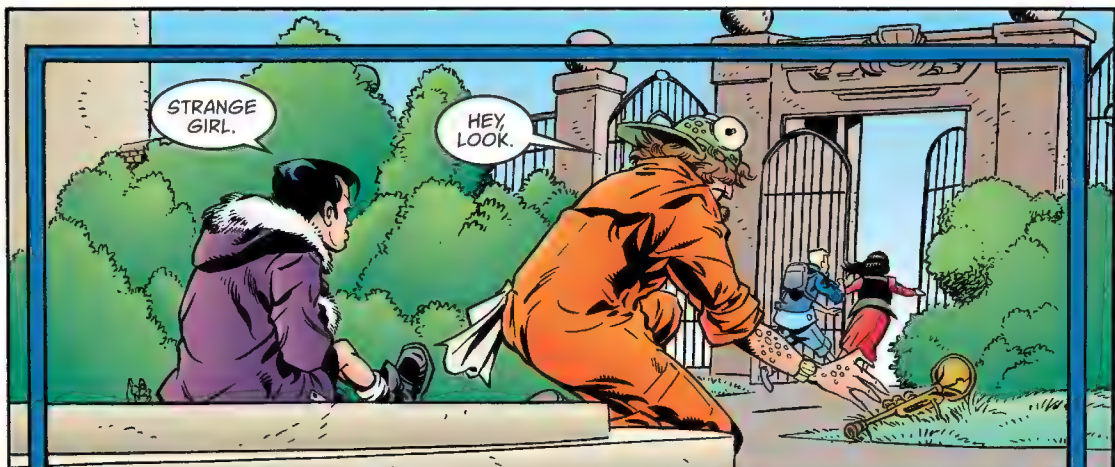
I'M SORRY, BLUE. I HAVE SO MUCH I NEED TO SAY TO YOU. CAN WE TALK SOMEWHERE PRIVATELY?

SURE, LET'S GO UP TO MY--

NOT HERE. TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS.

LET'S GO TO THE PLACE I STAYED LAST NIGHT.

UHM... OKAY. SURE.



STRANGE GIRL.

HEY, LOOK.



BLUE LEFT HIS TRUMPET BEHIND.



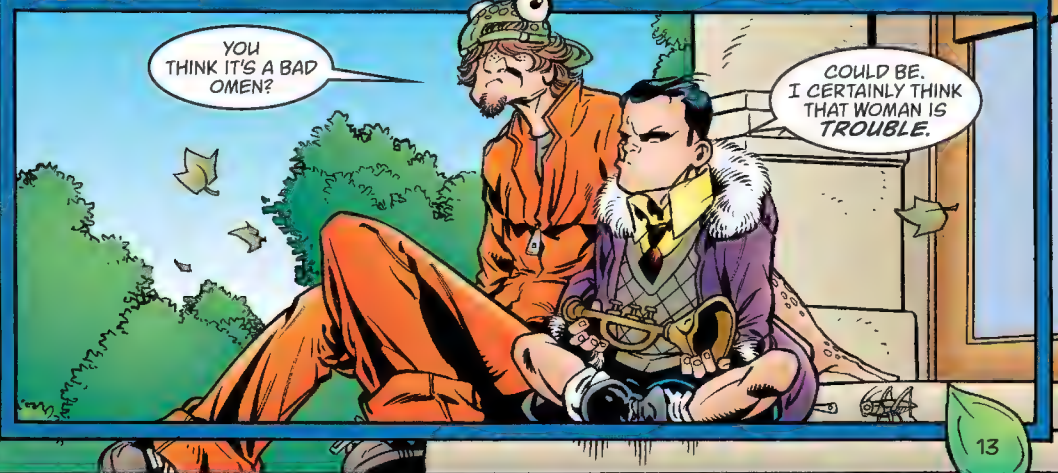
HELLFIRE'S SHIT FUEL!

BLUE NEVER GOES ANYWHERE WITHOUT HIS HORN!



LOOK, IT'S DENTED.

NOT A GOOD SIGN.



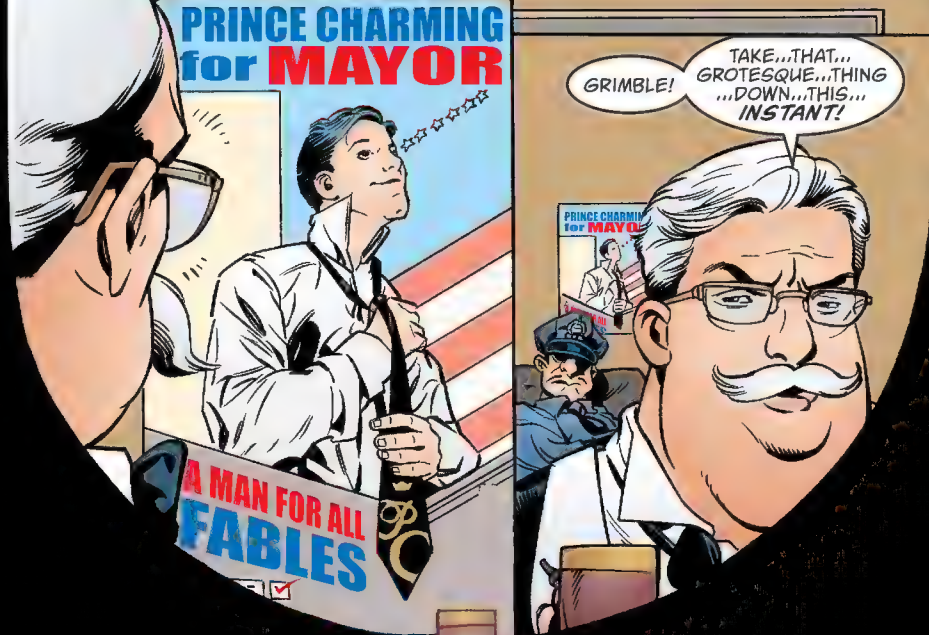
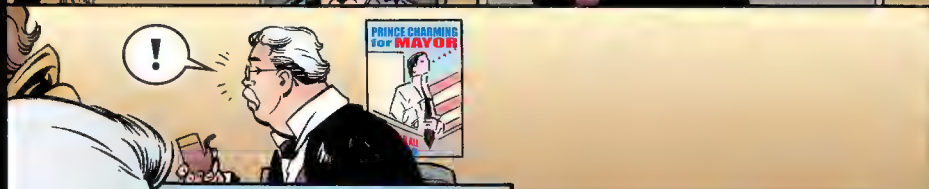
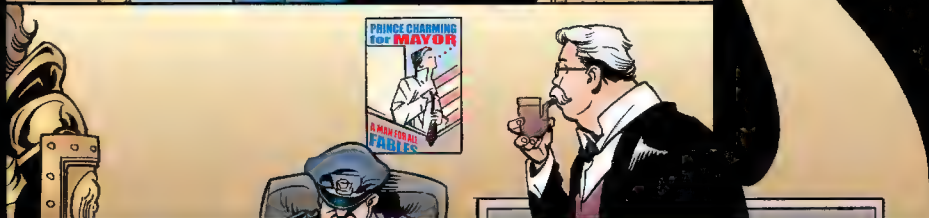
YOU THINK IT'S A BAD OMEN?

COULD BE. I CERTAINLY THINK THAT WOMAN IS TROUBLE.

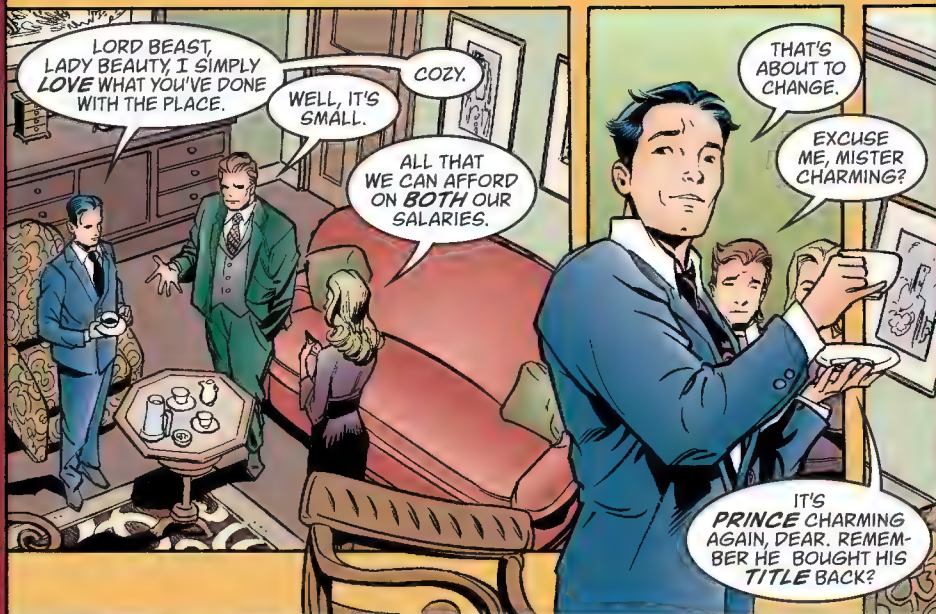
GOOD EVENING, YOUR HONOR.

DID YOU HAVE A NICE DINNER OUT IN THE MUNDY?

IT WAS ADEQUATE, JOHN. MERELY ADEQUATE.



TAKE...THAT... GROTESQUE...THING ...DOWN...THIS... INSTANT! GRIMBLE!



LORD BEAST, LADY BEAUTY, I SIMPLY LOVE WHAT YOU'VE DONE WITH THE PLACE.

COZY.

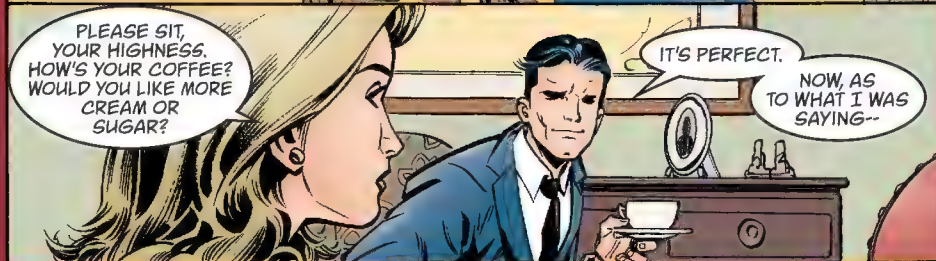
WELL, IT'S SMALL.

ALL THAT WE CAN AFFORD ON **BOTH** OUR SALARIES.

THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE.

EXCUSE ME, MISTER CHARMING?

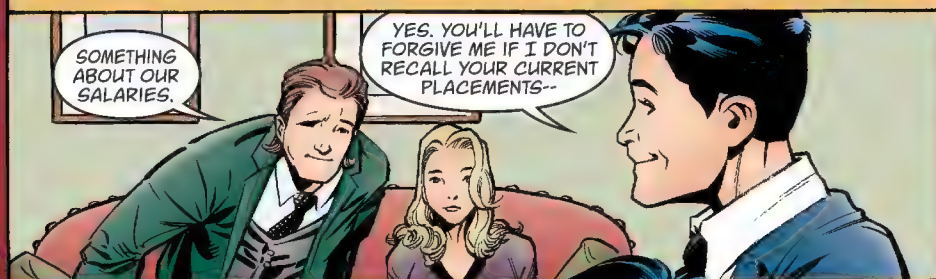
IT'S **PRINCE CHARMING** AGAIN, DEAR. REMEMBER HE BOUGHT HIS **TITLE** BACK?



PLEASE SIT, YOUR HIGHNESS. HOW'S YOUR COFFEE? WOULD YOU LIKE MORE CREAM OR SUGAR?

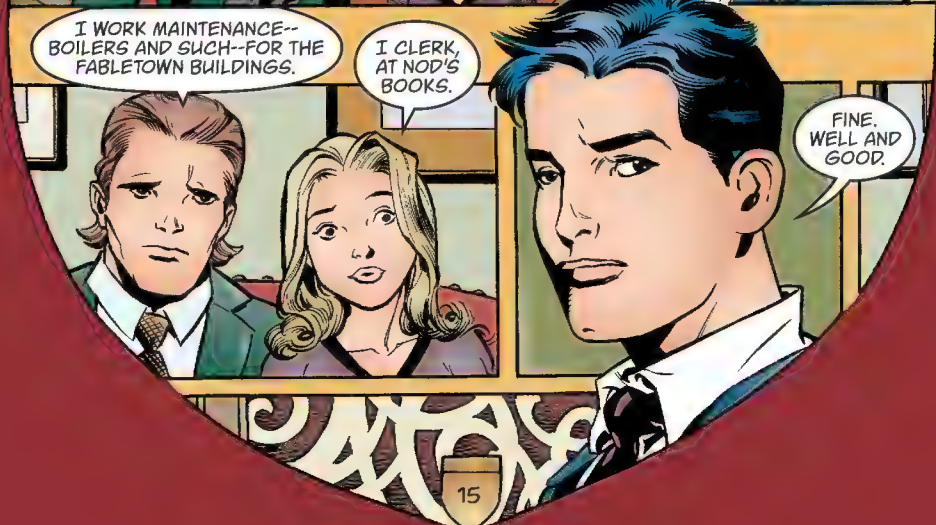
IT'S PERFECT.

NOW, AS TO WHAT I WAS SAYING--



SOMETHING ABOUT OUR SALARIES.

YES. YOU'LL HAVE TO FORGIVE ME IF I DON'T RECALL YOUR CURRENT PLACEMENTS--



I WORK MAINTENANCE--BOILERS AND SUCH--FOR THE FABLETOWN BUILDINGS.

I CLERK, AT NOD'S BOOKS.

FINE. WELL AND GOOD.

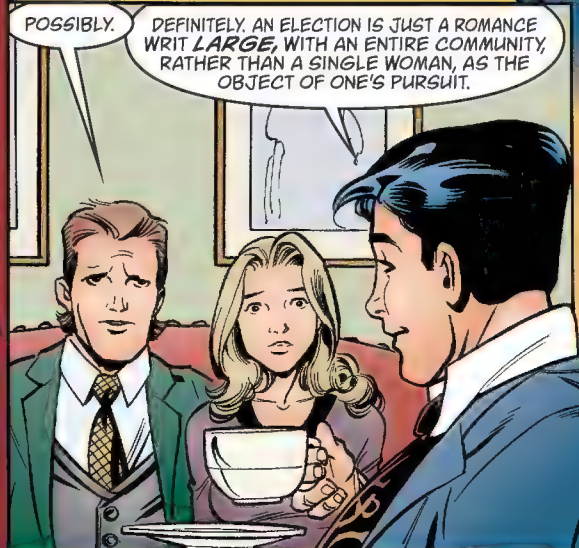
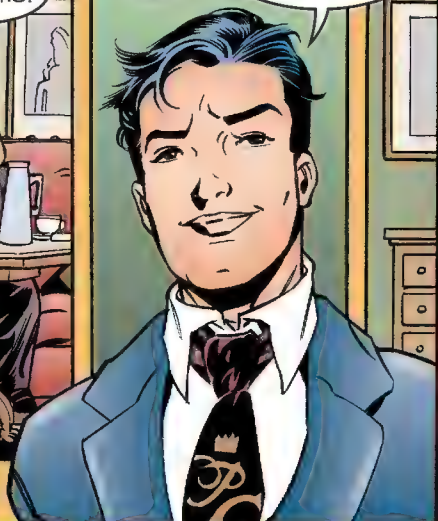




BUT I'M HERE TO OFFER YOU NEW JOBS, WHICH I'M CONFIDENT WILL COME AT A **SUBSTANTIAL** IMPROVEMENT ON YOUR CURRENT INCOMES.

WE'RE LISTENING.

TO THE POINT THEN. BY THIS TIME NEXT MONTH, I'M GOING TO BE THE NEW MAYOR OF FABLETOWN.



POSSIBLY.

DEFINITELY, AN ELECTION IS JUST A ROMANCE WRIT **LARGE**, WITH AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY, RATHER THAN A SINGLE WOMAN, AS THE OBJECT OF ONE'S PURSUIT.

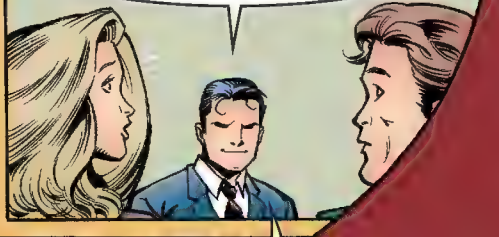
AND I ALWAYS WIN THE OBJECT OF MY PURSUIT. THE DAY AFTER I WIN, SNOW WHITE WILL QUIT AS DEPUTY MAYOR. SHE WON'T EVER WORK WITH ME, NOT THAT I **BLAME** HER.



SOON AFTER THAT, BIGBY WILL QUIT AS SHERIFF, FOR SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME REASONS. THESE TWO POSITIONS ARE **VITAL** TO THE SAFE AND SECURE OPERATION OF OUR SMALL GOVERNMENT.

THEY CAN'T GO EMPTY, OR SUFFER AN EXTENDED AND AWKWARD TRANSITION.

THEREFORE, I'M OFFERING YOU **THEIR** JOBS--SHERIFF AND CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR.



I'D LIKE YOUR ANSWERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE--**NOW**, IN FACT.



YOU STAYED  
HERE LAST  
NIGHT?

WHO OWNS IT?  
HOW DID  
YOU EVEN  
**FIND**  
IT?

LONG  
STORY. I'LL  
TELL YOU  
EVERYTHING  
IN A BIT.

BUT FIRST  
I WANT TO TALK TO  
YOU ABOUT BIGBY WOLF.  
HE'S SUSPICIOUS  
OF ME.

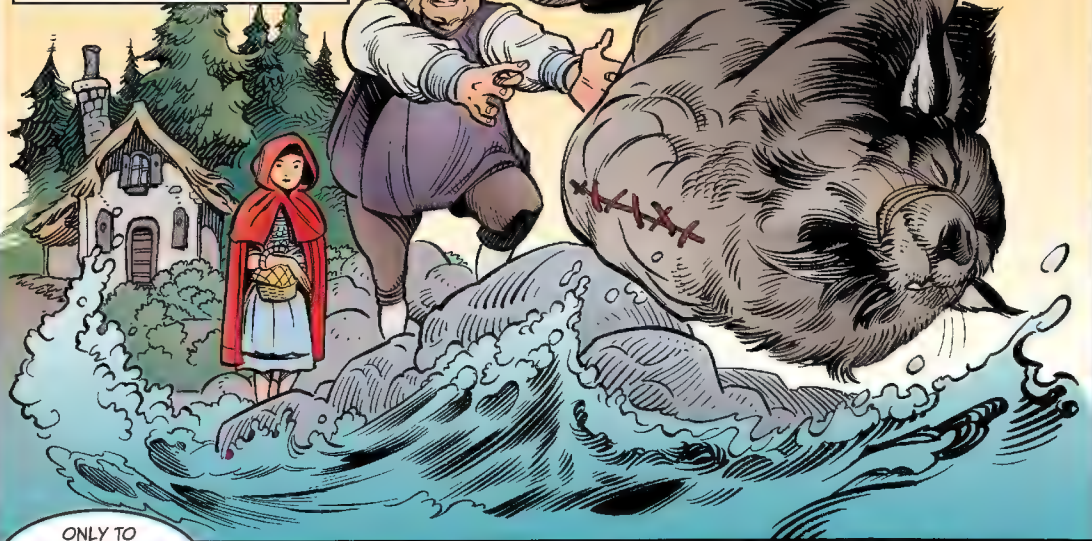
WELL,  
SURE, BUT  
THAT'S HIS **JOB**.  
HE SUSPECTS  
EVERY NEW  
ARRIVAL.

BUT  
IT'S DIFFERENT  
WITH ME. I TOLD  
YOU WHAT HE DID TO  
ME--TO MY FAMILY--  
REMEMBER?

EVERY  
WORD. BUT  
THAT WAS PRE-  
AMNESTY.

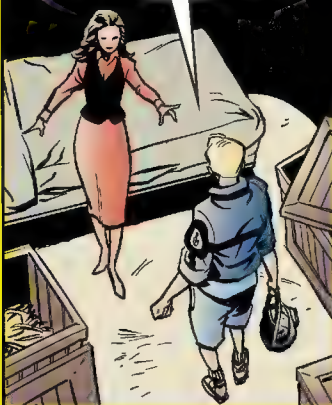
AND  
THEREFORE  
YOU FORGIVE HIM?  
HOW **CAN**  
YOU?

"WELL, HE SUFFERED FOR THOSE PARTICULAR CRIMES. YOU CUT HIS BELLY OPEN AND SEWED IT UP WITH ROCKS--AND THEN THREW HIM IN THE LAKE TO DROWN."



ONLY TO DISCOVER NOW THAT HE **ESCAPED** THAT FATE.

NOT EASILY. HE TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY LAST NIGHT. IT TOOK HIM THREE **WEEKS** TO PASS THOSE STONES--ENOUGH OF THEM TO SWIM BACK TO THE SURFACE.



IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF WHO HIS **FATHER** WAS THAT HE WAS ABLE TO HOLD HIS **BREATH** FOR SO LONG.

FINE, BUT YOU'RE MISSING THE **POINT**. I NEED SOMEONE TO **CHAMPION** MY CAUSE--TO OFFSET HIS POSITION AGAINST ME.



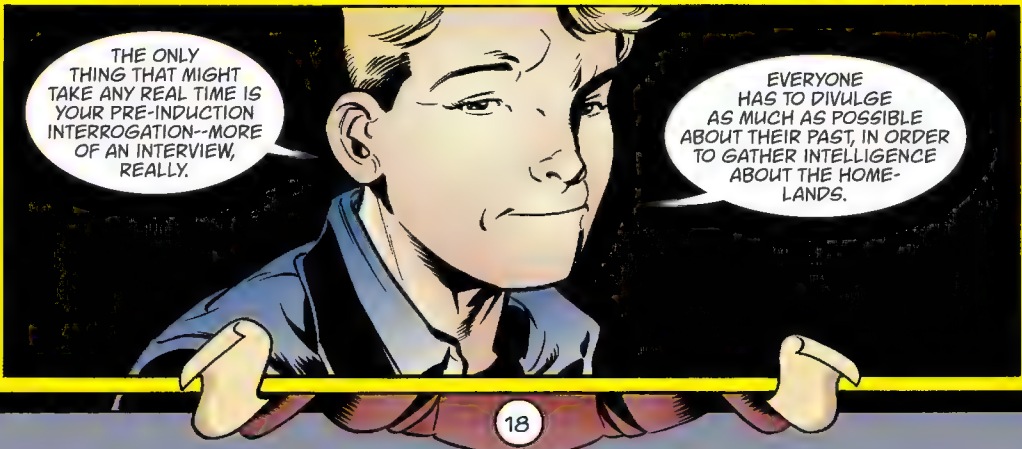
I NEED YOU ONCE AGAIN TO ACT AS MY KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR.


OF COURSE. **ANYTHING**. BUT EVEN WITHOUT MY HELP YOU'RE CERTAIN TO BE INVITED INTO THE COMMUNITY. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF SLOGGING THROUGH THE RED TAPE.



THE ONLY THING THAT MIGHT TAKE ANY REAL TIME IS YOUR PRE-INDUCTION INTERROGATION--MORE OF AN INTERVIEW, REALLY.

EVERYONE HAS TO DIVULGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THEIR PAST, IN ORDER TO GATHER INTELLIGENCE ABOUT THE HOME-LANDS.





SINCE YOU'VE BEEN A SLAVE OF THE ADVERSARY CENTURIES LONGER THAN ANY OTHER OF US, IT'LL PROBABLY TAKE SOME TIME GETTING EVERY BIT OF INFORMATION FROM YOU.

THAT'S WHERE YOU CAN BE THE **MOST** HELP.



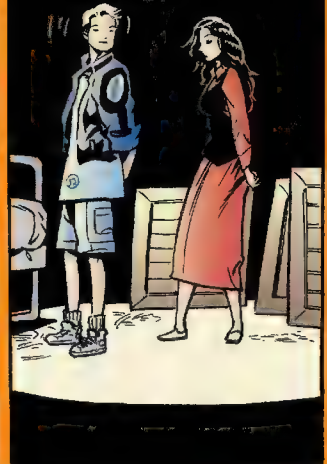
THINGS WOULD GO SMOOTHER IF I KNEW MORE ABOUT WHAT I'M **FACING**.

TELL ME ABOUT THE FARM. WHO'S UP THERE? AND WHAT MAGIC ITEMS DO YOU PEOPLE POSSESS, AND WHERE ARE THEY STORED? IT LOOKED LIKE MANY OF THEM WERE IN THE BUSINESS OFFICE.



BUT-- AND HOW MANY WITCHES, WARLOCKS AND SORCERERS DO YOU--DO **WE** HAVE HERE?

RISE, YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANY OF THAT TO JOIN FABLE-TOWN.



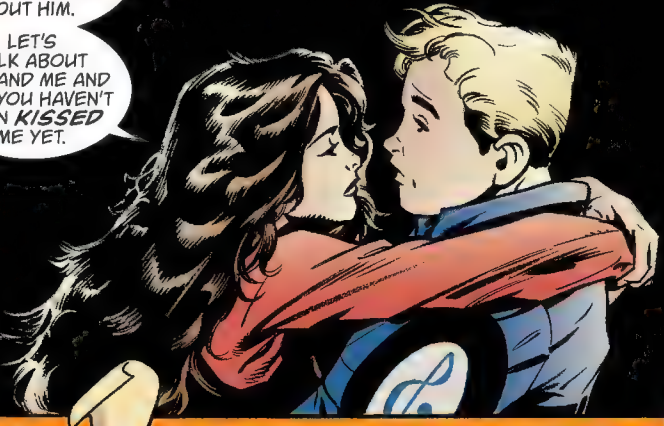
THIS ISN'T LIKE U.S. NATURALIZATION, WHERE YOU'LL BE QUIZZED ABOUT DETAILS OF THE CONSTITUTION AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION BEFORE YOU CAN BE SWORN IN.



ACTUALLY WANTING TO KNOW THAT KIND OF STUFF WILL MAKE **BIGBY MORE** SUSPICIOUS.

OH, POOH ON THAT FLEA-BITTEN OLD MONSTER. I'M TIRED OF TALKING ABOUT HIM.

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU AND ME AND WHY YOU HAVEN'T EVEN **KISSED** ME YET.





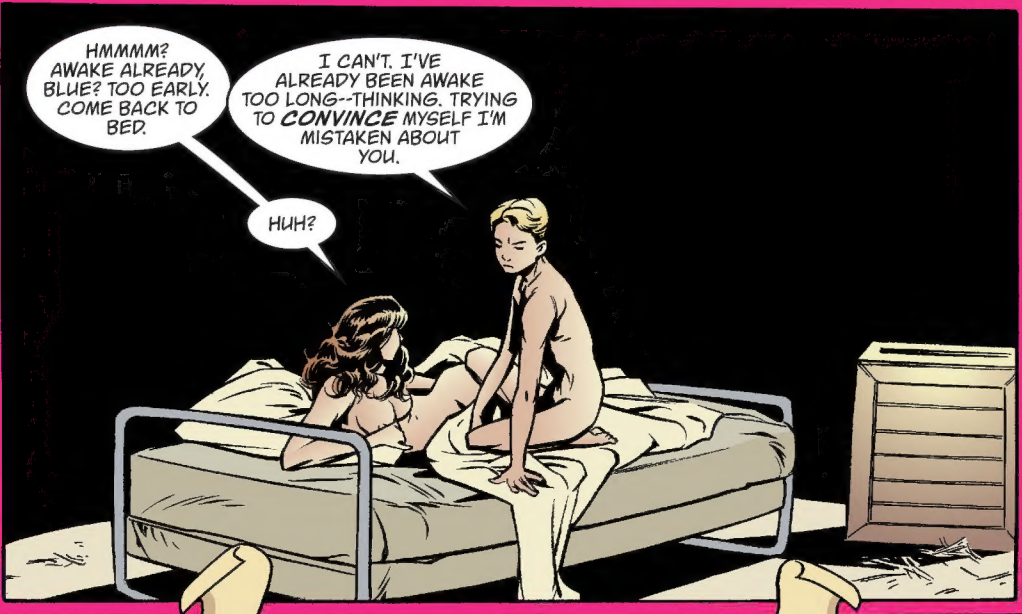
IF YOU  
INSIST.



HMMMM?  
AWAKE ALREADY,  
BLUE? TOO EARLY.  
COME BACK TO  
BED.

I CAN'T. I'VE  
ALREADY BEEN AWAKE  
TOO LONG--THINKING. TRYING  
TO **CONVINCE** MYSELF I'M  
MISTAKEN ABOUT  
YOU.

HUH?



WHO ARE YOU?

I KNOW YOU AREN'T RIDING HOOD.

CARE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU DID WITH HER?

I WARNED YOU I'D CHANGED. CENTURIES OF TORTURE--

DON'T EVEN TRY THAT WITH ME, LADY. JUST TELL ME WHO YOU ARE, BEFORE I TURN YOU IN.

AND WHAT'S WITH THIS PLACE?

MIND YOUR MANNERS, YOUNG MAN.

I WON'T BE ADDRESSED WITH SUCH CONTEMPT.

**AHHHHH!**

SHALL WE KILL HIM, MISTRESS?

SHOOT HIM WITH MULTITUDES OF BULLETS?

MASSIVE TARGET PRACTICE?

NOT YET.

I WANT HIM FINELY CHOPPED AND COOKED IN MY STEW.

MADE INTO FOOD?

OH, THE HUMILIATION.

BUT FIRST I NEED TO QUESTION HIM--THOROUGHLY, AND NOT IN SO PLEASANT A FASHION AS I'D ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

NEXT:  
WICKED



NATHAN